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Central Artery North Area Project



Aerial view of the Route 1/Interstate 93 interchange located in Charlestown prior to May 1987.

The Central Artery North Area (CANA) project is making major safety and traffic flow improvements to the most accident prone stretch of highway in the Commonwealth, the interchange of Route 1 and Interstate 93 in Charlestown. When completed, a system of ramps and tunnels will connect Route 1 and I-93, eliminating a dangerous intersection and the cause of many traffic slowdowns. For more information, call the CANA project hotline at 241-5560.

Central Artery North Area

The Project

Central Artery North Area (CANA) is a reconstruction project designed to make major safety and traffic flow improvements to the most accident prone stretch of highway in the Commonwealth. CANA was developed by the Massachusetts Department of Public Works (MDPW).

In May 1987, CANA began reconstructing the interchange of Route 1 and I-93 in Charlestown. The entire project is expected to be completed by late 1993.

When completed:

- The merge distance of the interchange where I-93, Route 1, Storrow Drive and the Central Artery cross the Charles River will be lengthened from 600 to 2,000 feet, eliminating a hazardous travel area and a serious traffic bottleneck.

- CANA will eliminate the dangerous 'S' curve approach to the Tobin Bridge from the Central Artery.

- Major sections of highway will be built in tunnels under City Square, rejoining Charlestown with its historic waterfront while creating open space for parks and development.

- The accessibility of the expressway network from City Square and the local street system will be improved.

Commuter Alerts:

Motorists can expect the following roadway changes:

- CANA's major effect on commuters is expected to occur when southbound traffic is routed onto a temporary detour structure from the Tobin Bridge to the Central Artery in late 1988. **At that time, commuters traveling to the Central Artery from Route 1 south and the Tobin Bridge will be restricted to one lane for approximately four years.** Since 1973, the MDPW has been channeling the same area to one lane on weekdays between 6:30 and 9:00 a.m., to allow a safer merge with I-93 south traffic, after 1988 this restriction will be in effect at all times. Two lanes will continue to be maintained for motorists traveling north from the Central Artery to the Tobin Bridge.

At this time, the Park Street on-ramp will close, eliminating direct access to the Central Artery south and I-93 north from City Square. The connection to the Central Artery from City Square will be made via the North Washington Street Bridge and the Cause-

way Street on-ramp. Access to I-93 north from City Square will be made via Rutherford Avenue and the I-93 on-ramp north of Sullivan Square.

- In late December 1988, the ramp connecting Route 1 south to I-93 north will be closed. Traffic will be detoured via Routes 16 and 99.

- In April 1989, the Gray Street off-ramp will be open and the Henley Street off-ramp will close to allow tunnel construction.

- On weekend late-night hours, starting in 1989, there will be sporadic shutdowns of I-93 to allow for bridge work during the construction of the elevated roadways over the Boston Sand and Gravel plant. The work will reconnect I-93 and Route 1, both north and south. The MDPW, in conjunction with other state and local agencies, is formulating a comprehensive public safety plan for detour routes during the shutdowns to minimize inconvenience to residents and motorists. Both shutdowns and detour routes will be well publicized before implementation.

Motorists have already experienced:

- The closure of the ramp connecting I-93 south and Route 1 north. Traffic is detoured via Routes 99 and 16.

- The closure of the Charlestown/Constitution Road exit from Route 1. Charlestown bound traffic now uses Exit 25 (Causeway Street). Motorists traveling south to Chelsea now exit I-93 at Exit 28 (Sullivan Square), take Route 99 to Route 16, and right onto Everett Avenue.

- In April 1988, a new Water Street on-ramp leading to the Tobin Bridge opened. The new ramp is occasionally used as a substitute for the Chelsea Street on-ramp during construction.

Commuter Relief:

In preparation for the CANA project, state and local officials have coordinated their construction schedules, upgraded traffic signals, made safety improvements on secondary routes and provided additional police details and tow trucks to aid traffic flow through work areas.

The most effective method to lessen the impact of construction is to reduce the number of vehicles traveling through the work area. **Commuting options and aids suggested by the MDPW include:**

- **Try mass transit:** the MBTA is increasing capacity

on the Red, Orange and Blue lines. Commuter Rail service is adding 3,000 seats to North Side lines and adding a regular stop at Chelsea Station on the Eastern Route. For information about routes, schedules and parking, call 722-5000.

- **Try MBTA or private bus line services.** Bus route and schedule information is available by calling CARAVAN at 227-POOL.

- **Take advantage of free Park and Ride Lots** featuring bus and vanpool service to and from the lots. The MDPW is preparing to construct two Park and Ride lots in Chelsea and is studying additional lot locations. For more Park and Ride information, please call 227-POOL.

- **Know your alternatives:** Call CARAVAN at 227-POOL. This non-profit commuter services company will provide you with complete commuting and transit options specific to your schedule and route including setting up your own vanpool.

- **Ask about flextime:** talk to your employer about variable work hours.

- **Look for the Motorist Information/Traffic Surveillance System:** By December 1988, Variable message signs will be installed at key locations along CANA impacted roadways to immediately inform motorists of construction work, accidents, lane and exit-ramp availability and alternate routes. Video cameras will also be installed at important locations to monitor traffic accidents, break-downs or tie-ups. Detour signs have been installed on alternate routes.

*Prepared by the Massachusetts Department of Public Works
Ten Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116
Jane F. Garvey, Commissioner*

For Tourists

Access to all visitors' attractions in City Square, Charlestown, will be maintained during the CANA project. Call 536-4100 for tourist information and directions to: U.S.S. Constitution and Museum; Bunker Hill Monument; Bunker Hill Pavilion; Charlestown Naval Yard and the Freedom Trail.

CANA Project Hotline:

241-5560

A CANA project member is available (between 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday) with up-to-date information on the project.



Artist's rendering of the completed CANA project. (Please note the buildings shown are the Artist's interpretation of possible development.)

